

P 111016Z MAY 09  
FM AMEMBASSY ULAANBAATAR  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2840  
INFO AMEMBASSY BEIJING PRIORITY  
AMEMBASSY KABUL PRIORITY  
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW PRIORITY  
AMEMBASSY SEOUL PRIORITY  
AMEMBASSY TOKYO PRIORITY  
SECDEF WASHINGTON DC PRIORITY  
NSC WASHINGTON DC PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L ULAANBAATAR 000128

STATE FOR EAP/CM - DAS JOHN NORRIS; DOD FOR DASD DAVID  
SEDNEY AND DASD MICHAEL SCHIFFER; NSC FOR JEFF BADER

E.O. 12958: DECL: 05/11/2019  
TAGS: [MARR](#) [MOPS](#) [PREL](#) [MG](#)  
SUBJECT: DEFENSE MINISTER BOLD REPLIES TO SECRETARY GATES'  
LETTER ON AFGHANISTAN

REF: A. ULAANBAATAR 064  
[1](#)B. ULAANBAATAR 113  
[1](#)C. USDAO IIR 6909 0053 09

Classified By: Political Counselor Andrew Covington, Reasons 1.4  
(a/b/d)

[1](#)1. (C) Minister of Defense Lu. Bold called in the Ambassador  
and the Defense Attache on May 11 to present a letter from  
the Minister to Secretary Gates expressing the Government of  
Mongolia,s decision to deploy to Afghanistan. The letter  
came in response to Secretary Gates, letter dated February  
24, 2009, on Mongolia,s prospective redeployment to  
Afghanistan (see reftels A and B). At the meeting, Bold  
explained that Mongolia,s National Security Council and  
Cabinet have made the political decision to send troops to  
Afghanistan and will send a working group to CENTCOM to work  
out details of the deployment.

[1](#)2. (C) To assist the GOM in working out the deployment  
details, post encourages CENTCOM,s reception of the  
Mongolian working group and recommends that Secretary Gates  
meet with Minister Bold at the Shangri-La annual regional  
security dialogue on 29-31 May. (Please see reftel C for  
details.)

[1](#)3. (SBU) Begin text of Defense Minister Bold's letter:

MINISTRY OF DEFENSE OF MONGOLIA  
11 May 2009  
06/135

H.E. ROBERT GATES  
SECRETARY OF DEFENSE  
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

Mr. Secretary,

With much delight I received the letter conveying your  
appreciation of the military cooperation between our nations.  
Having conducted a thorough review of your proposal and  
having prudently assessed our options, we are coming to the  
point of the Mongolian Armed Forces' support to our mutual  
goal to ensure peace and long-lasting stability in  
Afghanistan.

Throughout this period, our military survey team has visited  
Afghanistan, and though (sic) their encounters with the  
coalition forces, as well as based on their evaluation of  
their assessment of the situation on ground, we succeeded in  
gaining a political support of our national leadership to  
continue to offer our modest yet willed contribution to our  
common effort.

Accordingly, a working group designated by the Ministry of  
Defense and the General Staff of the Mongolian Armed Forces

are on their way to visit the United States Armed Forces' Central Command to work out the details for deployment and terms of collaboration, including the logistical aspects thereof and other issues of mutual concern.

The government and the people of Mongolia are aware that the success of our own democracy and well-being benefits from the pursuit for global peace stability, which, on its own turn, depends on the advancing of freedom worldwide. I am, therefore, pleased to assure you of our commitment for ensuring collaboration for the sake of our committed values and remain confident the virtue of this very cooperation will significantly enhance benefits for the process of transformation of the Mongolian Armed Forces.

I am looking forward to our first encounter during the Shangri-La Dialogue later this month, and furthermore, to the anticipated bilateral meetings in our respective capitals in the near future.

With respect,

(Bold Luvsanvandan)

BOLD LUVSANVANDAN  
MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT,  
MEMBER OF GOVERNMENT OF MONGOLIA  
MINISTER OF DEFENSE

May 2009

Mongolia

End text of letter.

MINTON